

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 OES-03 COME-00

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09 /097 W

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O 171710Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0052

INFO USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 00254

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, WMO, SZ, VS, VN

SUBJECT: PROPOSED "PRG" OBSERVER STATUS AT 7TH WMO CONGRESS

REF: STATE 10509

1. SUMMARY: SINCE "TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENTS" MENTIONED
PARA 1 REFTEL CAN MEAN AS FEW AS FORTY-EIGHT (48) POSITIVE
VOTES (I.E., TWO THIRDS OF REQUIRED SEVENTY ONE (71) VOTE
QUORUM), IT MAY BE ADVISABLE TO EMPHASIZE IN PROPOSED
DEMARCHES THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR A NEGATIVE VOTE AGAINST
PRG AND ANYTHING LESS WILL NOT MEET MINIMUM NECESSARY
TO GUARANTEE SUCCESS OUR EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO WMO DEPUTY SEC GEN SEVENTY ONE
VALID REPLIES CONSTITUTE A QUORUM IN THIS POSTAL BALLOT
(I.E. A SIMPLE MAJORITY OF 140 WMO MEMBERS). UNLESS 71
BALLOTS ARE RECEIVED, THE VOTE WILL NOT BE TALLIED
BECAUSE OF LACK OF QUORUM (ART. 12 WMO CONVENTION).

3. THE DECISION SHALL BE BY A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY
OF VOTES CAST FOR AND AGAINST, I.E. A MINIMUM OF
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FORTY EIGHT (48) POSITIVE VOTES. ABSTENTION AND

BLANK BALLOTS DO NOT COUNT.

4. HOWEVER, IN CASES IN WHICH POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE VOTES ARE REGISTERED FOR SOME OR ALL OF THE OBSERVER CANDIDATES AND THE VOTE BLOCK FOR THE PRG IS LEFT BLANK, THE BALLOT WILL BE CONSIDERED VALID FOR PURPOSE OF THE PRG QUORUM COUNT. (SINCE MANY MEMBERS INCLUDING PARTICULARLY ARABS AND AFRICANS MAY BE EXPECTED TO SUPPORT BAHREIN, GUINEA BISSAU ET AL WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE LIST, THE PRG STANDS TO GAIN AN ADVANTAGE THAT IT MIGHT NOT HAVE HAD IF ITS NAME APPEARED ALONE ON THE BALLOT).

5. BUT, ACCORDING TO DEPUTY SEC GEN, THOSE BALLOTS RETURNED WITH NAME OF PRG STRICKEN OUT WOULD NOT BE COUNTED AS CONSTITUTING A QUORUM FOR PRG VOTE.

6. IT IS CLEAR THAT UNDER THIS INTERPRETATION OF THE RULES, THE "TWO-THIRDS" REQUIREMENT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT, AS IN THE CASE OF VOTE FOR WMO MEMBERSHIP, MEAN THAT A FIXED NUMBER OF 86 POSITIVE VOTES MUST BE ATTAINED TO BE ACCEPTED AS OBSERVER. (WMO CONVENTION, ART 3).

7. MISSION CONCLUDES THAT,

A) INCLINATION SOME COUNTRIES TO DUCK PRG ISSUE BY "ABSTAINING" I.E. LEAVING VOTE BLOCK BLANK WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO OUR OBJECTIVES; AND

B) THAT A REQUEST TO STRIKE PRG NAME FROM VOTING SLIP IS IMPRACTICAL MEASURE

AND RECOMMENDS,

A) THAT IN OUR DEMARCHES WE EMPHASIZE NEED TO HAVE NEGATIVE VOTE AGAINST PRG, POINTING OUT THAT ABSTENTION WILL NOT HELP ENOUGH AND MAY EVEN BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND

B) THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER AUTHORIZING FURTHER DEMARCHE TO WMO SECRETARIAT POINTING OUT THAT INCLUSION OF PRG ON SAME VOTING LIST WITH NAMES OF LEGITIMATE
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"NON-MEMBER COUNTRIES" HAS POSSIBLY PREJUDICED THE OUTCOME OF THE VOTE ACCORDING TO ABOVE INTERPRETATION GIVEN BY DEPUTY SEC GEN. ABRAMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
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Disposition Reason:
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